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CORRESPONDENCE.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The general orders of the 3rd inst.
The Huntingdon Borderers.
Changes amongst field officers.
Marks obtained at M. S. now given.
The customs and the force.

PERSONALS.

RECENT DEATHS.

OUR EXCHANGES.

IN PARLIAMENT.

DOMINION ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Medals for the Red River Expedition of 1870.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

REGIMENTAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE TARGET.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

Comment and Criticism.

THAT part of the general orders of the 3rd published to-day sums up twenty-five promotions, and thirty-four new commissions, including only four qualified and three non-combatant officers, while there are no less than fifty losses, leaving the large balance of sixteen commissions on the wrong side. Even omitting the thirteen officers lost to the force by the reorganization and reduction of the Huntingdon Borderers, there is still a net loss of three commissions.

THE Huntingdon Borderers will not know themselves in their new guise. They have fallen at one official stroke from an eight company battalion to one of four companies, and have only twelve of the old officers left, out of thirty-two. Nevertheless if, as was generally understood, they were in a poor state of organization, it is much better, in the interest of the force, that they should be brought down to a workable strength. If all the inefficient corps in the country were struck off the rolls the annual grant would suffice to bring the remainder up to a fair state of efficiency and to equip them so that they could take the field when called upon, instead of as now, being dependent upon a scramble when a crisis comes. We hope the action in the case of the Huntingdon Borderers will be imitated elsewhere.

THE following changes are gazetted amongst officers holding rank or relative rank above that of captain: In the 15th Batt. Dr. Burdett, whose retirement was gazetted in the last orders, is allowed to carry

with him the rank of surgeon-major, as a special case; in the 42nd two new majors are appointed, Major Sparham succeeding from the command of the Brockville company, and Major Hollinsworth from the command of the Pembroke one; in the Huntingdon Borderers Major Maclaren succeeds to the colonelcy, and Majors Johnston and Cairns are retired in consequence of the reduction in the number of companies; Dr. Sherriff also retires with the rank of surgeon-major, and is succeeded by Dr. McLaren. In the 53rd Surgeon-Major Worthington retires after twenty-five years consecutive service in the battalion, and with a military record extending back to '37-8, and is succeeded by his son, who gives up a company for the purpose. In the 79th Major Galbraith goes on the retired list, and is succeeded by the adjutant, Capt. Bulman, and in the 67th Capt. Boyer attains his brevet majority after sixteen years' service in command of his company.

POINTS of interest in these orders are the large number of changes of headquarters, the large number of retirements of company commanders, and the fact that for the first time the results of the military school examinations are given by appending to the names of those obtaining certificates the numbers of marks which they secured. This is an improvement, and should prove an incentive to candidates to work hard for a good place.

THE new regulation of the Department of Customs, removing militia supplies from the free list, is creating comment all over the country, and is invariably treated as an oversight, everyone is so sure that the government could not seriously mean to treat a force that does so much voluntary and unpaid work for the country as we are now being treated. The fact that the privilege has been abused by some is no reason for denying it to all; it would be an easy thing for some arrangement to be made with the Militia department that would obviate any difficulty of that sort, in such cases as admit of any doubt. There are many instances in which even the average examiner could hardly go wrong; for example people do not usually import swords to be used as toasting forks, nor do Canadians habitually wear service caps in mufti. Once more we hope the old regulation will be, under the strictest limitations if necessary, resumed.

Personal.

The staff of the Ottawa brigade camp will be as follows: Lt.-Col. Lamontague, D.A.G., commandant; Lt.-Col. Lewis, brigade major; Lt.-Col. Bredin, 59th, camp quartermaster; Capt. and Q.-M. Heron, G. G. F. G., supply officer, and Major Todd, G. G. F. G., musketry instructor.

The following officers are to constitute the staff of the camp at St. Andrew's, N.B. Lt.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., commandant; Lt.-Col. Beer, 74th Batt., brigade major; Major Beckwith, 71st Batt., supply officer; Lt.-Col. McCulley, 73rd Batt., camp quartermaster; Major Vince, Engineers, instructor of musketry.

Recent Deaths.

Dr. Bart Pattullo, who served in the Battleford field hospital, died 3rd June, 1887, at Tilsonburg, Ont., after a few days' illness.
Geo. Letts, a member of the 45th Batt., was drowned near Lindsay Ont., on the 29th.